

247 Newark Association Committee of Concern

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July 20, 1967

Dr. Ulysses B. Blakeley  
The Synod of New Jersey  
United Presbyterian Church U.S.A.  
The Presbytery of Newark  
910-12 McCarter Highway  
Newark, New Jersey 07102

Dear Dr. Blakeley:

This is first to acknowledge your kind letter of July 13, 1967, which I did not get until after our conference and especially for the generous thoughts you express concerning my associates and myself. I hope and believe that we will be able to demonstrate both our good will and "expertise" as time goes on.

Secondly, I would like very briefly to summarize the points discussed in our conference.

1. I have authorized you to offer my services as an attorney in connection with the forthcoming investigation, or investigations of the recent riots. Charges have been and will be made going to the intemperate statements of officials and to excessive use of violence and other provocations by the authorities. These must be thoroughly investigated, and when substantiated by evidence should be well formulated and vigorously pressed. Only this kind of investigation, corroboration and presentation will be of value in drawing the final conclusions which may suggest procedures which would go to eliminate the causes of the riots and to minimize their impact and extent when frustrations exceed the limits of tolerance.

2. In my many years at the Bar, I have participated in New Jersey, in Washington, D.C. and in many places throughout the country, in legislative investigations and hearings, administrative hearings of extended duration, and of course, in many trials and appeals, where the preparation of evidence and the analysis of documentary material by way of statements and affidavits, was imperative.

3. My services, if called upon for this purpose, will be entirely on a volunteer basis.

Dr. Ulysses B. Blakelley

(2)

July 20, 1967

4. I would like to become a member of your Committee on Concern, and await the result of your good auspices in that respect.

5. More than ever, the problem of housing in the City of Newark looms as a prime source of irritation - and there should be immediate plans for accelerating housing programs. Both federal and new state laws should be invoked and housing for Newark should be one of the first programs to be initiated under the State legislation. Non-profit sponsored housing can play a major role, not only in speeding development, but also in providing the social amenities which will be necessary to create living conditions under which riots would be no more than a fading memory.

6. I made a special reference to the sharp controversy over the intended allocation of a large slum area for a new hospital complex. The basic objection is that the elimination of the slum dwellings will leave the occupants literally with no place to go. By invoking good planning principles, such an area could be a blend of the hospital buildings, housing accommodations for hospital workers and for those displaced by the slum clearance, as well as for persons of moderate income. Appropriately there could be provisions for housing for the elderly, perhaps with special emphasis on retired hospital personnel, nurses and doctors who might render part time services in the hospital complex. The elderly population might well become the subject of study, if geriatrics were to be one of the concerns of the hospital complex. A neighborhood center and a commercial area could be included in the overall plan.

By this kind of planning the result would not merely be a hospital complex or center, but a community which would serve that center and be served by it. Under such a plan it would be well if an immediate start were made on the housing aspects of the project. This would not only be a show of good faith, but would provide immediate housing for persons as they are displaced by the demolition of their present homes. Balanced stages of development and construction could be worked out so that the hospital complex and the community around it would develop simultaneously.

Such a plan developed with the participation of the people involved working with the experts might well be part of a new era of good social relations and in the reconstruction of so much of Newark - which is so badly needed.

*and  
and of course, for nursing home facilities*

Mr. [redacted]  
(3)  
July 20, 1967

For the purpose set forth in the first paragraph I can be available on short notice. I look forward to meeting with you again.

Sincerely,

ABRAHAM J. ISSERMAN

AJI:MC